

REGULAR MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 16, 2014

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

6:45 P.M.

OPEN FORUM

House Bill 8311

Stephen Vowels brought this to everyone's attention that this bill seems to be on the fast track for approval. The intent is to exempt one municipality from paying taxes to another municipality for a parcel of land that they may be utilizing within the second community. He believes that the City of Woonsocket currently uses property within North Smithfield and may be planning to make improvements on it. This bill would prohibit taxes being paid to North Smithfield. Mr. Vowels believes this could set a dangerous precedent. He urged the Council to stay in touch with town elected representatives.

Mr. Flaherty commented that both he and Ms. Hamilton are aware of the bill that was just filed on the 12th and each has sent letters to the Speaker asking for any action to be delayed until at least next year.

June 16, 2014

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with the prayer and pledge to the flag. Council members present were Ms. Alves, Mr. McGee, Mr. Yazbak, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Flaherty. Town Administrator

Hamilton and Town Solicitor Lombardi were also in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Yazbak requested the Payment of Bills and the Monthly Financial Report be removed from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to accept/approve the following: 1.) Town Council Minutes of May 19, 2014; 2.) Animal Control Monthly Report for May 2014; 3.) NSPD Monthly Report for May 2014; 4.) NS Municipal Court Report for May 2014; and 5.) Resolutions from the Towns of Barrington and Warren Re: Municipal Road and Bridge Revolving Fund.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Yazbak asked that the Council take a separate vote on bills from B & E Consulting, LLC, Moses Afonso Ryan Ltd and Stephen M. Robinson Law Offices. He stated he would be voting no on those payments as he does not believe those firms were retained properly under the Charter.

MOTION by Ms. Alves and seconded by Mr. McGee to approve payment to B & E Consulting, LLC in the amount of \$11,106.25, Moses Afonso Ryan Ltd for \$4,525.50 and Stephen M. Robinson Law Offices for \$6,062.50.

Mr. Zwolenski asked to amend the motion to include that it is based upon the recommendation of the Town Administrator and review of the Finance Director.

On a roll call vote the motion passed 3 to 2 with Mr. McGee and Mr. Yazbak voting no.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak recused because he has clients on the vendor list) to approve payment of the following additional bills: General Fund - \$296,103.71; Sewer - \$6,809.84; Water - \$10,337.76; School Department - \$1,498,072.00 and Fire Department - \$195,147.00 for a total of \$2,006,470.31.

Monthly Financials

It appears to Mr. Yazbak, with what was just approved, that the expenditures are \$500,000 over based on the June 6th report. He asked the other Council members to keep that in mind during budget deliberations.

Ms. Hamilton noted that some monies collected after June 30th could be applied to the current year and some bills that have already been paid are reflected in the report.

SELECTION OF FIRM FOR AUDIT OF ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Ms. Hamilton presented some names of firms that have been

recommended to further audit the Assessor's office.

Mr. Yazbak was hopeful of having a forensic audit to determine if records had been altered as well as who knew what and when did they know it.

Mr. Flaherty would also like to see an investigation of the department itself, to include policies and procedures.

Over the next two weeks Ms. Hamilton will provide data to the Council members and will work with Mr. Yazbak to come up with a scope of work.

CONTRACT WITH COUNCIL 94

This agreement is a one-year extension of the current contract, for the period beginning July 1, 2013 and expiring on June 30, 2014. The only change at this time is for a three-percent salary increase effective July 1, 2013. Negotiations are continuing for a new contract.

June 16, 2014

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve this contract that will expire on June 30, 2014 with a three-percent increase retroactive to July 1, 2013.

APPOINTMENT OF 2ND ALTERNATE TO PLANNING BOARD

There was no appointment.

BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

Finance Director Brenda MacDonald noted there is a four-percent cap which equates to \$30,893,512 that can be collected. With abatements and the collection rate the number would be \$30,176,511.

TOWN COUNCIL

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$10,350.

PROBATE COURT

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$8,364.

TOWN SOLICITOR

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 3 to 2 on a roll call vote (Mr. McGee and Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$209,089.

MUNICIPAL COURT

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted 3 to 2 on a roll call vote (Mr. McGee and Mr. Yazbak voted no) to reduce the salary of the judge to \$6,300, making the total for the department

\$32,908.

ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to increase the Administrator's salary to \$75,000 from its current \$71,289.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve a salary of \$30,000 for the Administrative Assistant.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$3,000 for the audio videographer.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$2,000 for the Grant Writer.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$0 for Longevity.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1,000 for Education.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted

unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$550 for Maintenance.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski and Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$0 for Travel and Dues.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$600 for Office Supplies.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1,500 for Gas/Oil/Tires.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$0 for Vehicle Repair.

Total for the department is \$113,650.

June 16, 2014

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$131,449.

PLANNING DIVISION

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted 4 to 1

on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$128,180.

BOARD OF CANVASSERS

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$13,950.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski and seconded by Mr. Flaherty to approve \$199,046. The motion failed 3 to 2 (Ms. Alves, Mr. McGee and Mr. Yazbak voted no) on a roll call vote.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$198,291.

TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$106,398.

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski and Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$81,364.

BOARD OF TAX REVIEW

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1.

AUDITS AND COMPUTER SERVICES

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$117,015.

ZONING BOARD

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$6,280.

PERSONNEL BOARD

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 3 to 2 on a roll call vote (Mr. McGee and Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$1,599.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$250.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$3,500.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1,500.

JUVENILE HEARING BOARD

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. McGee and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1,500.

June 16, 2014

TOWN HALL

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. McGee and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$7,577.

PLANT OPERATIONS

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$5,500 for Heat-Animal

Control.

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$0 for Telephone-Town Council.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve a total amount of \$170,572.

PRINTING AND ADVERTISING

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$13,500.

CONTINGENCY FUND

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$3,500 for Emergency Truck Repair.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$2,000 for Contingency-Computers.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 3 to 2 on a roll call vote (Ms. Alves and Mr. Flaherty voted no) to approve \$150,000 for Contingency Fund.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak to approve \$50,000 for Contingency-Infrastructure. There was no second.

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty to approve \$165,000 for Contingency-Infrastructure. There was no second.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Flaherty voted no) to approve \$75,000 for Contingency-Infrastructure.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$0 for Council Claims.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$10,000 for 10 Year Re-Evaluation.

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$75,000 for Fund Balance Restoration.

Total for Contingency Fund is \$315,500.

SCOUTERS HALL

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1,252.

N.S. PUBLIC LIBRARY

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$396,455.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$2,208,283.

ANIMAL CONTROL

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$66,722.

EMA

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski and seconded by Ms. Alves to approve \$17,908. On a roll call vote the motion failed 3 to 2 (Mr. McGee, Mr. Yazbak and Mr. Flaherty voted no).

June 16, 2014

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty to approve \$18,658. There was no second.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski to approve \$15,000. This motion was withdrawn.

MOTION by Mr. McGee and seconded by Mr. Zwolenski to approve

\$11,250. On a roll call vote the motion failed 3 to 2 (Ms. Alves, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Flaherty voted no).

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$14,250.

N.S. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$2,390,768.

HYDRANT RENTAL

MOTION by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$51,375.

MOTION by Mr. McGee, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to take a five-minute recess at 9:24 P.M.

The meeting resumed at 9:32 P.M.

INSPECTION DIVISION

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$117,776.

DPW - ADMINISTRATION

MOTION by Mr. McGee, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 3 to 1 on a roll call vote (Ms. Alves recused and Mr. Yazbak voted no) to

approve \$92,648.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$1,062,888.

PARKS AND RECREATION

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak voted no) to approve \$78,780.

TREE WARDEN

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$4,230.

STREET LIGHTS

MOTION by Ms. Alves and seconded by Mr. Zwolenski to approve \$225,000. This motion was later withdrawn.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$250,000.

RUBBISH DISPOSAL

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$649,580.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves and Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1.

DEBT SERVICE - PRINCIPLE

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$2,055,552.

DEBT SERVICE - INTEREST

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$1,376,625.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote (Ms. Alves recused) to approve \$1,615,535.

June 16, 2014

INSURANCE

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$200,497.

CAPITAL

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted 3 to 2 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak and Mr. Zwolenski voted no) to approve \$326,082.

SETTLEMENT OBLIGATIONS

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$95,000.

GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak and seconded by Mr. McGee to approve \$23,500. Following discussion, Mr. Yazbak amended his motion, Mr. McGee amended his second, to increase the Land Trust funding to \$1,418 and it was voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve \$23,668.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote at 10:01 P.M. to extend the meeting to 10:45.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Budget Committee Chairman Michael Clifford explained the rationale of the committee in arriving at their recommended budget number.

The maximum amount allowable to get to the cap would be \$39,252,341. Approved non-school funding this evening comes to \$14,751,306, leaving \$24,501,035 for the school department.

Mr. Yazbak asked if the town could add an additional \$50,000 to revenue from the real estate commissions.

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 10:37 P.M. to take a five-minute recess.

MOTION by Mr. Flaherty, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 10:44 P.M. to extend the meeting to 11:30 P.M.

MOTION by Ms. Alves to approve \$18,659,159 for the school department appropriation. There was no second.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Flaherty voted no) to continue this meeting to next Monday night, investigate whether the revenue for the real estate commissions can be increased by \$50,000 and revisit whether the full funding for capital can come from the operating budget; perhaps there could be a compromise with half coming from operating and half coming from lease/purchase.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 10:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk